

Story 1539 (1992 Tape 1

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Location: Derinkuyu, a kaza town
of Nevşehir Province

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Believing a Donkey but Not the Hoca

One day a neighbor went to Nasreddin Hoca's house and asked to borrow his donkey. Nasreddin Hoca did not want to lend his donkey to that neighbor, and so he said, "I am sorry, but my donkey is not here. I loaned my donkey to another friend."

Just at that moment, however, Nasreddin Hoca's donkey began to bray. When the neighbor heard it braying, he said, "Oh, Hoca, you told me that your donkey was not here, but I can hear him braying in the stable. Why did you tell me he was not here?"

Nasreddin Hoca answered, "This is a very strange situation. You do not believe the words of a sixty-year-old, white-haired man, but you do believe what a donkey says!"

¹A hoca is a preacher and the religious leader of a community. In pre-Republican times the hoca was also the community teacher. Separation of church and state in the Republic required that teachers be people of secular rather than of religious training. Nasreddin Hoca is Turkey's most popular comic folk character.